



DC  
COMICS™

23.1

THE NEW 52!

# CYBERMAN

## ALPHERMAN #1



RATED T TEEN

NOV 2013

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# THE KRYPTONIAN CITY OF ARGO.

NINE MONTHS AFTER KRYPTON'S DESTRUCTION...

"THE DISTRESS BEACON IS WEAK, BUT THIS IS THE SOURCE."

"ARE YOU CERTAIN?"

"YES, BRAINIAC."

CASUALTIES.

7.24 MILLION DEAD, THOUGH WE'VE FOUND SEVERAL STILL CLINGING TO LIFE. ONE IS EVEN SLIGHTLY CONSCIOUS, THOUGH DELIRIOUS.

SHOW ME.

HOW STABLE ARE THEY?

THEY'LL BE DEAD WITHIN A FEW DAYS IF LEFT ALONE.

IF LEFT ALONE...

...HELP IS COMING... HELP IS COMING... BRAINIAC WILL COME...

SHALL WE ARCHIVE THEM WITH THE REST, BRAINIAC?

NO. THAT ONE IS BROTHER TO JOR-EL, THE GREATEST MIND ON KRYPTON. YET, THIS LESSER BROTHER SURVIVES.

BRING HIM TO ME. HE CALLED FOR HELP.

AND HE SHALL HAVE IT.



THAT ONE? EARTH?

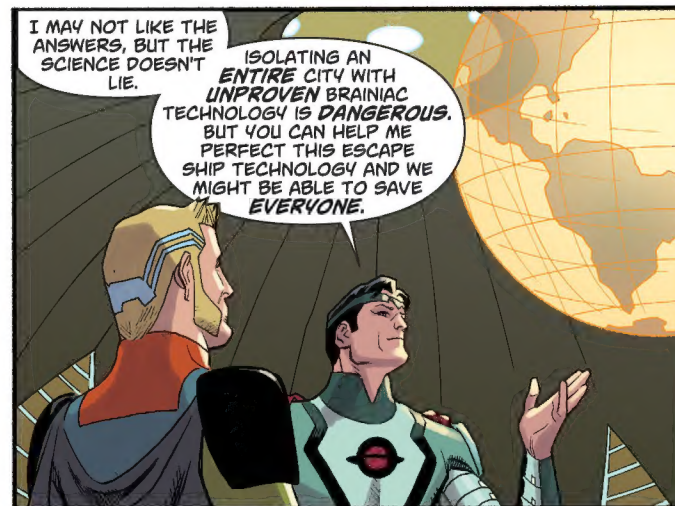
IT'S PERFECT, ZOR-EL. HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY IS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO KRYPTONIAN. KAL COULD BLEND IN-- HAVE A LIFE.

HAVE A CHANCE.



AS YOUR OLDER BROTHER, I'M BEGGING YOU.

ZOR-EL, I CAN'T. I WON'T.



I MAY NOT LIKE THE ANSWERS, BUT THE SCIENCE DOESN'T LIE.

ISOLATING AN ENTIRE CITY WITH UNPROVEN BRAINIAC TECHNOLOGY IS DANGEROUS. BUT YOU CAN HELP ME PERFECT THIS ESCAPE SHIP TECHNOLOGY AND WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SAVE EVERYONE.



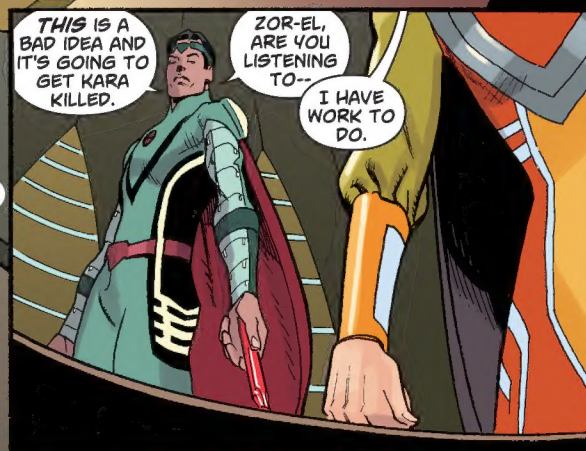
AND WHAT IF WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO MAKE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE? WILL YOU PLAY RAO AND DECIDE WHO LIVES AND WHO DIES? JOR-EL, I CAN DO THIS.

NO, YOU CAN'T. NOW STOP WASTING TIME ON SUCH A FOOLISH ENDEAVOR. YOU CAN'T REPLICATE BRAINIAC'S ATTACK ON KANDOR TO SAVE ARGO.



DON'T EVER TELL ME WHAT I CAN'T DO. I DO KNOW HOW TO SAVE ARGO, EVEN IF YOUR EGO WON'T ALLOW YOU TO ADMIT IT.

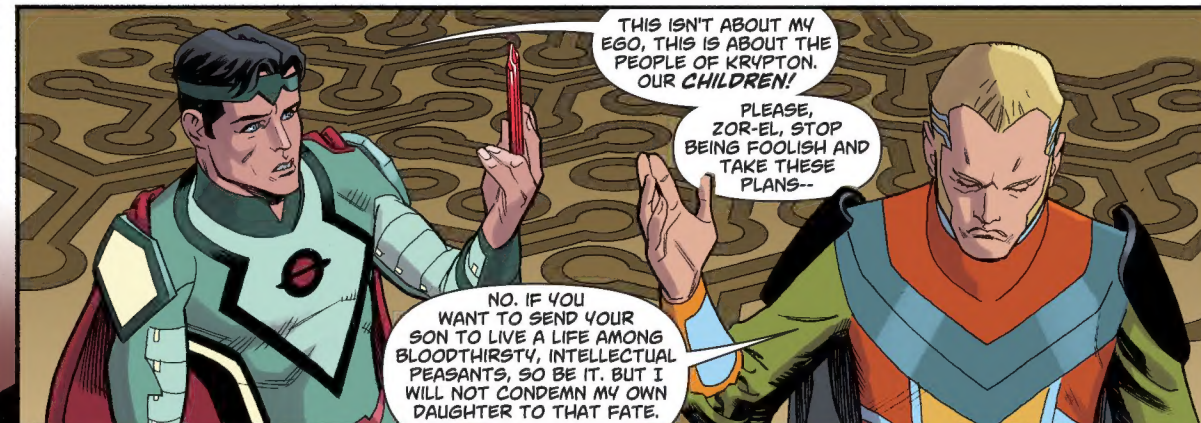
AND IF YOU CAN'T ACCEPT THAT I MIGHT KNOW MORE THAN YOU, MAYBE YOU'RE NOT AS SMART AS YOU THINK YOU ARE.



THIS IS A BAD IDEA AND IT'S GOING TO GET KARA KILLED.

ZOR-EL, ARE YOU LISTENING TO--

I HAVE WORK TO DO.



THIS ISN'T ABOUT MY EGO. THIS IS ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF KRYPTON. OUR CHILDREN!

PLEASE, ZOR-EL, STOP BEING FOOLISH AND TAKE THESE PLANS--

NO. IF YOU WANT TO SEND YOUR SON TO LIVE A LIFE AMONG BLOODTHIRSTY, INTELLECTUAL PEASANTS, SO BE IT. BUT I WILL NOT CONDEMN MY OWN DAUGHTER TO THAT FATE.

DC COMICS UNLEASHES **CYBORG** SUPERMAN

BORN IN FLAMES

MICHAEL ALAN NELSON - WRITER  
MIKE HAWTHORNE - ARTIST  
DANIEL BROWN - COLORS  
CARLOS M. MANGUAL - LETTERS  
AARON KUDER WITH DANIEL BROWN - COVER  
RICKEY PURDIN - EDITOR  
EDDIE BERGANZA - GROUP EDITOR



ZOR-EL, A PALE SHADOW OF A GREATER MAN...

ALTER HIS DNA AND RNA SEQUENCES TO RECONSTRUCT REMAINING TISSUE TO MORE EMULATE HIS SUPERIOR SIBLING.

SUBSTITUTE HIPPOCAMPUS WITH LATTICE OVERRUN AND THE RIGHT TEMPORAL LOBE WITH A LENTICULAR AMPLIFIER.

THAT WILL REMOVE ALL MEMORIES BUT THOSE OF MOTOR FUNCTION AND AUTONOMIC RESPONSE.

I KNOW...



"HE WILL HAVE NO NEED OF THOSE MEMORIES."



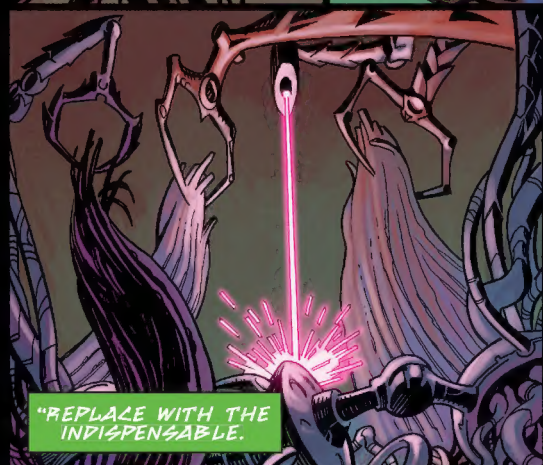
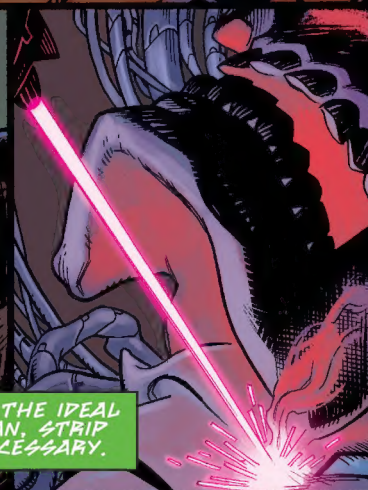
"THEY, LIKE SO MUCH FLESH, ARE SUPERFLUOUS."



"WHAT NEED DOES A MAN TRULY HAVE OF AN ORGAN ABUSED BY COWARDS AND LOVERS?"



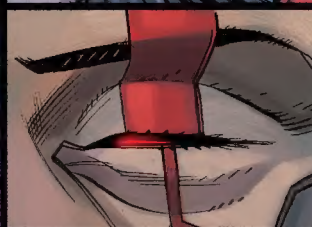
"TO CRAFT THE IDEAL KRYPTONIAN, STRIP THE UNNECESSARY."



"REPLACE WITH THE INDISPENSABLE."



"WHAT REMAINS..."



"...IS PERFECTION."





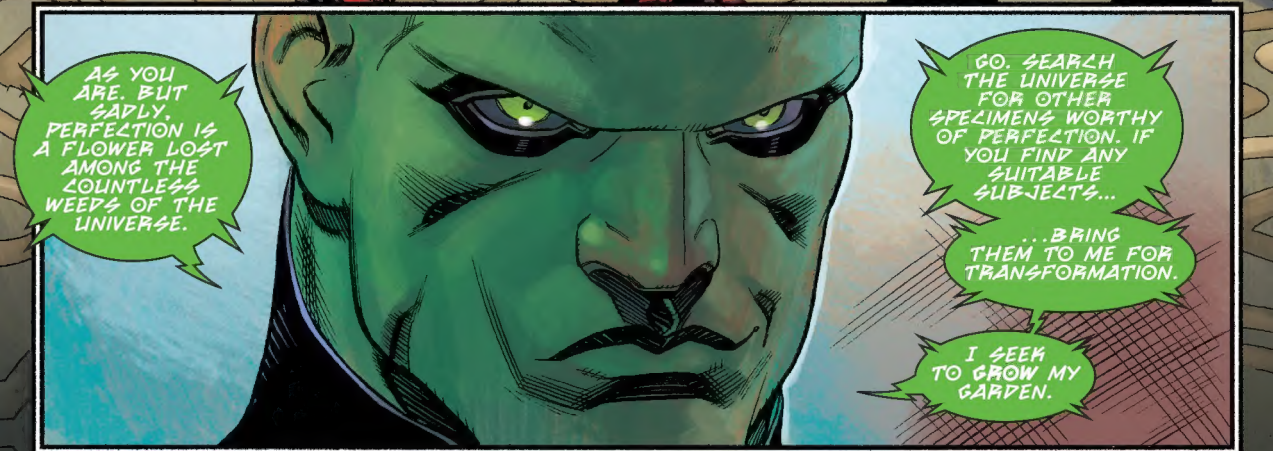
WHO AM I?

MY CREATION, ONCE FLAWED BY NATURE, NOW PERFECT BY DESIGN. I HAVE MADE YOU THE ULTIMATE KRYPTONIAN.

THE SIGIL YOU BEAR ON YOUR CHEST IS TESTAMENT TO THIS. YOU WEAR THE FAMILY CREST OF KRYPTON'S GREATEST MIND.

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

...ELITE.



AS YOU ARE. BUT SADLY, PERFECTION IS A FLOWER LOST AMONG THE COUNTLESS WEEDS OF THE UNIVERSE.

GO. SEARCH THE UNIVERSE FOR OTHER SPECIMENS WORTHY OF PERFECTION. IF YOU FIND ANY SUITABLE SUBJECTS...

...BRING THEM TO ME FOR TRANSFORMATION.

I SEEK TO GROW MY GARDEN.



**ARGO ON KRYPTON.**  
FOUR DAYS BEFORE DESTRUCTION...

ZOR-EL,  
DEAR, WHY  
ARE YOU STILL  
AWAKE?

ZOR-EL,  
CAN YOU HEAR  
ME?

...YES,  
ALLURA.

YOU'RE  
EXHAUSTED.  
COME TO BED  
WITH ME.

IN A  
WHILE. I HAVE  
TO GET THIS  
FINISHED.

WHAT-  
EVER IT IS, IT  
CAN WAIT UNTIL  
MORNING.

IT  
REALLY  
CAN'T.

CAN'T YOU PUT YOUR  
RIVALRY WITH YOUR  
BROTHER ON HOLD  
FOR JUST ONE  
NIGHT?

...

THAT'S VERY  
NOBLE, BUT IT  
CAN WAIT UNTIL  
MORNING.

ALLURA,  
PLEASE. I  
HAVE TO  
GET THIS  
DONE IN  
TIME.

ZOR-EL...WHAT  
EXACTLY ARE  
YOU WORKING  
ON?

OH, UH...

USING  
STELLAR  
RADIATION TO  
IMPROVE ARGO'S  
POWER GRID.

IN TIME FOR WHAT?  
IS JOR-EL WORKING ON A  
SIMILAR PROJECT? MY DEAR,  
THIS OBSESSIVE COMPETITION  
WITH YOUR BROTHER  
ISN'T HEALTHY.

I KNOW  
THAT HE GETS ALL THE  
ACCOLADES AND PUBLIC  
RECOGNITION...

...THAT  
DOESN'T MAKE  
HIM A BETTER  
SCIENTIST--

WHERE'S  
KARA?

WHAT?  
SHE'S STAYING  
WITH TALI  
TONIGHT.

WHICH ONE'S TALI?  
NEVER MIND, IT DOESN'T  
MATTER. BUT I WANT  
KARA CLOSE TO HOME  
FOR THE NEXT FEW  
DAYS, OK?

ZOR-EL,  
YOU'RE  
SCARING ME.  
WHY DO YOU  
WANT KARA  
CLOSE?

I DIDN'T  
MEAN TO  
SCARE YOU,  
ALLURA. I  
JUST...

THERE'S  
NO REASON.  
NO REASON  
AT ALL.



CITY OF GULARTH ON THE PLANET KAMPARA.



I AM  
PERFECTION. I  
COME IN SEARCH  
OF POTENTIAL  
EQUALS.

WHO  
AMONG YOU  
DEEMS THEMSELVES  
WORTHY OF  
SUPREMACY?



TELK NALADAN  
ORTUNAFIA?

YOUR  
WORDS AND  
CULTURE ARE  
UNFAMILIAR. ONE  
MOMENT...

GUL'TET.  
ANA  
GUL'TET.



NEURAL  
LATTICE  
INITIATED.

GAH!

MULTIPLE  
NODES  
NECESSARY.

PRIMARY  
NODE  
INSUFFICIENT.



EXTEND.  
EXTRACT.

POPULATION  
STATISTICS...  
LANGUAGES...  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
PROFICIENCY...

EXTRACTION  
COMPLETE.



NOW...

WHO  
AMONG YOU  
DESIRES TO BE  
PERFECT?\*

\*TRANSLATED  
FROM KAMPARIAN.







ARE ALL KAMPARI THIS FRAGILE? DEATH COMES TO YOU TOO EASILY.

AND YOU SCURRY AMONG YOUR HOVELS LIKE INSECTS CAUGHT IN DAYLIGHT. **NONE** OF YOU HERE COULD EVER HAVE POTENTIAL.



COME, BROTHER! WE MUST RUN!



COWARDICE IS A TRAIT OF THE IMPERFECT.

BUT YOUR CIVILIZATION IS DIVIDED. A CASTE OF YOUR **BETTERS** LIVES ELSEWHERE.

WHERE?



GO UP! ALL THE MONEY--ALL THE POWER--IS IN THE SKY.



PLEASE, DON'T HURT US!

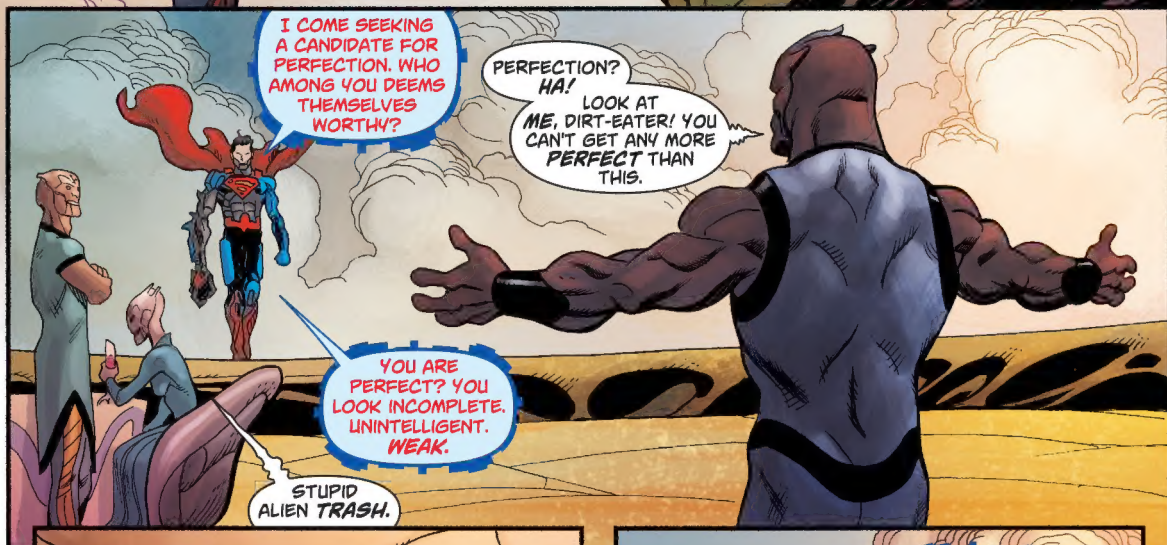




THE INEBRIATED CLAMOR OF THE PRIVILEGED. PERHAPS THERE IS **POTENTIAL** HERE.

HEY, RONAK, COME LOOK AT THIS! ANOTHER ALIEN **GROUND DWELLER** STOLE HIMSELF A **FLIGHT-PACK**.

AND HE LOOKS ABSOLUTELY **HIDEOUS!** A CAPE? SOMEONE SHOULD HAVE TOLD HIM THOSE WERE **SO LAST SEASON**.



I COME SEEKING A CANDIDATE FOR **PERFECTION**. WHO AMONG YOU DEEMS THEMSELVES **WORTHY?**

PERFECTION? **HA!** LOOK AT ME, DIRT-EATER! YOU CAN'T GET ANY MORE **PERFECT** THAN THIS.

YOU ARE **PERFECT?** YOU LOOK **INCOMPLETE**. **UNINTELLIGENT**. **WEAK**.

STUPID ALIEN **TRASH**.



WEAK. **HUH?** HEH.

I KNOCK GUTTER-FILTH LIKE YOU BACK DOWN INTO THE MUD ALL THE TIME. YOU'RE NOT THE **FIRST**, AND YOU WON'T BE THE **LAST**.

BUT YOU SURE DO TALK **TOUGH** FOR SOMEONE TOO SCARED TO COME ANY CLOSER. SO WHY DON'T YOU FLY ON OVER HERE AND TELL ME HOW **WEAK** I AM STRAIGHT TO MY **FACE**.



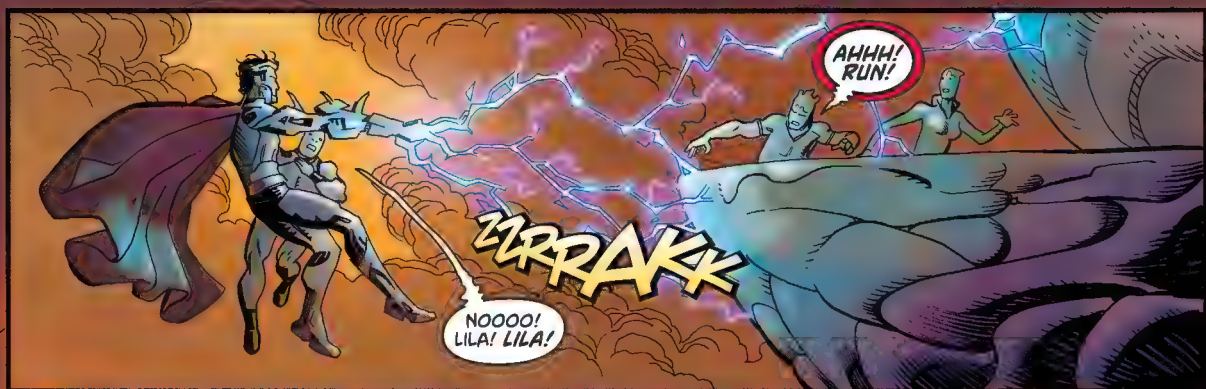
YOU BELIEVE YOURSELF TO BE **STRONG**. TO BE **PERFECT**. **VERY WELL**.

I WILL GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO **PROVE IT**.









AHHH!  
RUN!

ZRRRAKK

NOOOO!  
LILA! LILA!



NOOO!

SHE WAS WEAK. THEY WERE ALL WEAK. BUT YOU HAD THE STRENGTH TO SURVIVE.

YOU MAY HAVE POTENTIAL. WE MUST FIND OTHERS.



MY FRIENDS... YOU KILLED MY FRIENDS.

NO, YOU KILLED YOUR FRIENDS.

I DIDN'T WANT THAT. I'M SORRY, SO SORRY.

PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU, STOP THIS. I BEG YOU NOT TO--



AAAAHHH!



THE STRONG DO NOT BEG.





WHY ARE YOU NOT...DOING WHAT I NEED YOU TO DO...**CONNECT** ALREADY...

DAD?



KARA? WHY AREN'T YOU STUDYING?

I'M GOING TO PHYSICAL TRAINING NOW. YOU **DO** KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS, DON'T YOU, DAD?

OH... YES, OF COURSE.

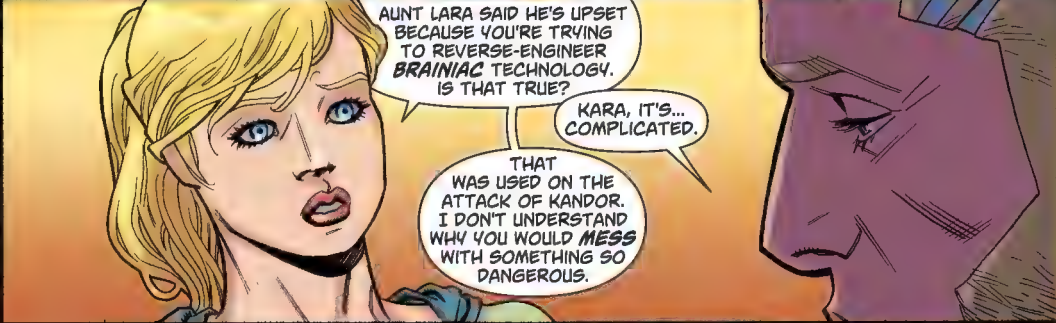
LIAR. SEE, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU WORK TOO HARD.



DID YOUR MOTHER SEND YOU?

NO. I CAME BECAUSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU. MOM WAS TALKING WITH AUNT LARA AND THEY SAID YOU AND UNCLE JOR-EL WERE FIGHTING. SHE SEEMED CONCERNED.

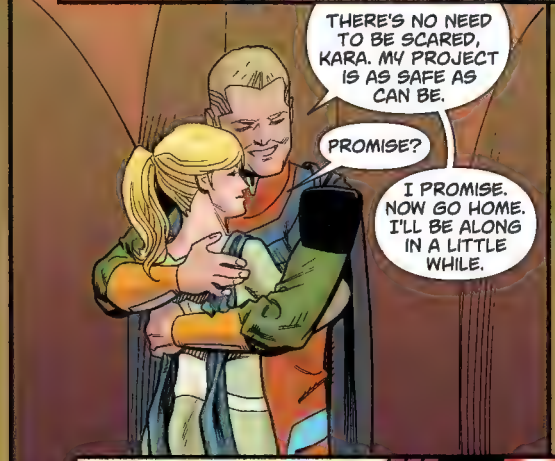
BROTHERS QUARREL SOMETIMES, BUT IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.



AUNT LARA SAID HE'S UPSET BECAUSE YOU'RE TRYING TO REVERSE-ENGINEER **BRAINIAC** TECHNOLOGY. IS THAT TRUE?

KARA, IT'S... COMPLICATED.

THAT WAS USED ON THE ATTACK OF KANDOR. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WOULD **MESS** WITH SOMETHING SO DANGEROUS.



THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SCARED, KARA. MY PROJECT IS AS SAFE AS CAN BE.

PROMISE?

I PROMISE. NOW GO HOME. I'LL BE ALONG IN A LITTLE WHILE.



DON'T BE LATE FOR DINNER! IF YOU ARE, I'LL HAVE TO INVITE TAK-RO TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.

DON'T TEASE YOUR FATHER LIKE THAT. YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT THAT BOY. AND TELL YOUR MOTHER TO STOP WORRYING SO MUCH...

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING.

DEET



95% OF POPULATION STRATA FOUND INELIGIBLE AS POSSIBLE CANDIDATES. THEY'VE PROVEN WEAK AND FRAGILE. BUT PERHAPS THERE IS STILL HOPE.

THE MIGHT OF KAMPARA'S ARMY MIGHT SHOW PROMISE.

CONVERGE ON TARGET AND FIRE AT WILL!



DISAPPOINTING. EVEN THEIR MIGHTIEST WARRIORS ARE FRAGILE.



IF THEIR COMMANDER PROVES AS DELICATE, KAMPARA MUST BE DISMISSED AS INADEQUATE AND UNWORTHY.



I AM PERFECTION. COME IN SEARCH OF POTENTIAL EQUALS. WHO COMMANDS THIS PETTY DEFENSE?

I DO, AND YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE--



INSIGNIA INDICATES RANK OF GENERAL. YOU BELIEVE YOURSELF A CANDIDATE FOR PERFECTION? THEN I ASK, WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO TO SURVIVE?

IT'S NOT...WHAT I'M WILLING TO DO...TO SURVIVE...

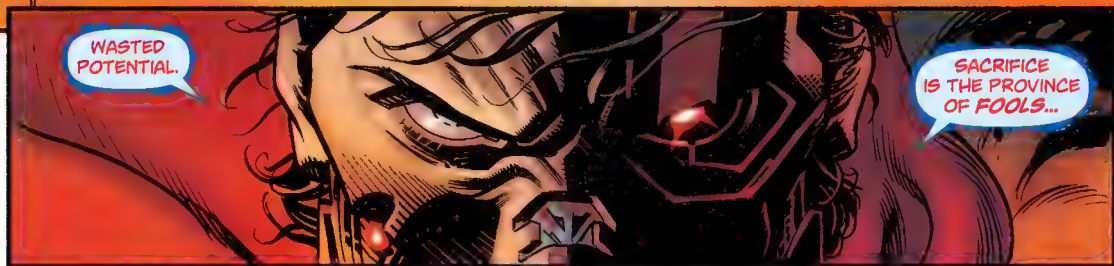


IT'S WHAT I'M WILLING TO DO TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T.

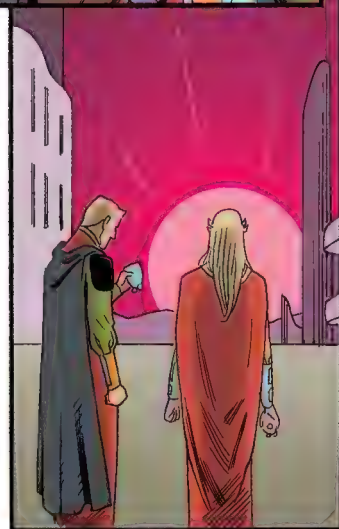
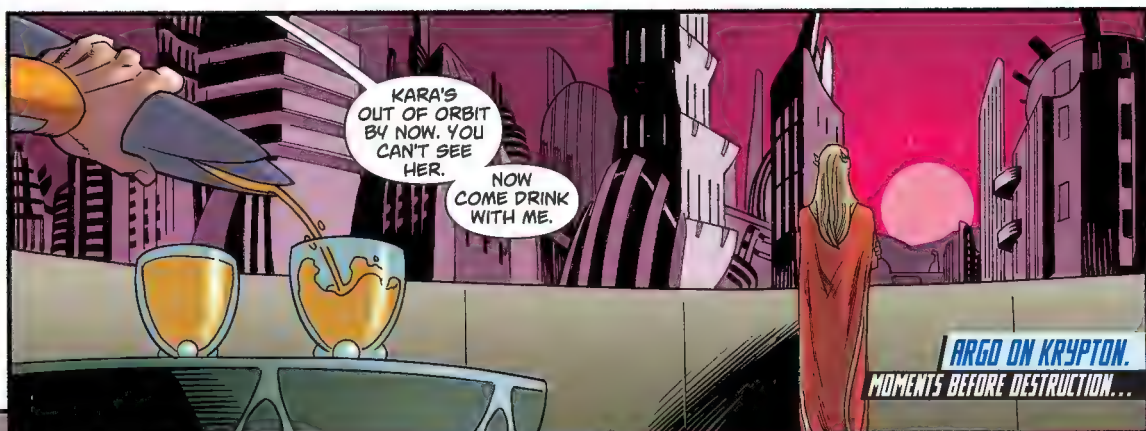


UNIVERSAL COMMAND! BRING US DOWN!















KAMPARA, YOU  
HAVE PROVEN TO BE  
BUT ANOTHER WEED  
IN THE GARDEN OF  
THE UNIVERSE.



WEAK. FRAGILE.  
IRRELEVANT.

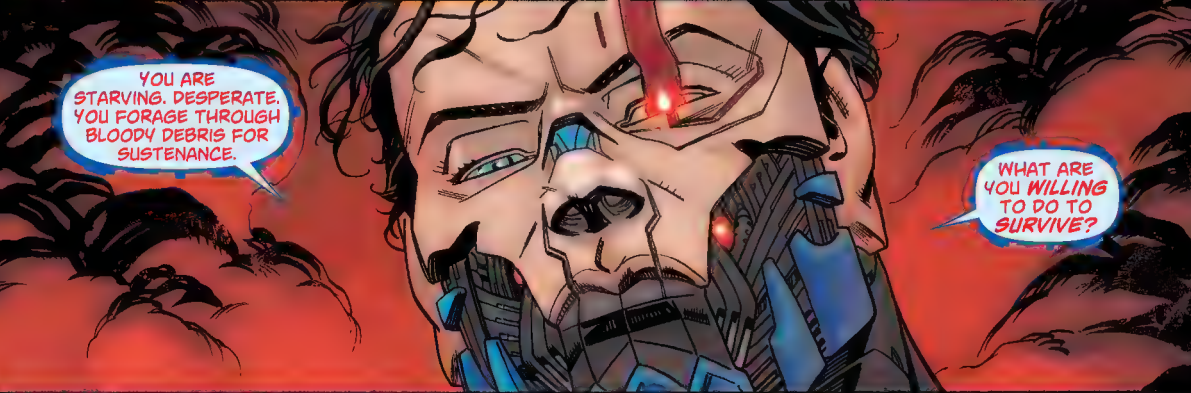
IS THERE  
NO ONE ON THIS  
PLANET WORTHY OF  
PERFECTION?



PERHAPS THE CRUCIBLE  
OF SUFFERING IS NEEDED  
TO BURN AWAY ONE'S  
WEAKNESS, ALLOWING  
POTENTIAL TO SHINE  
THROUGH.


I THINK  
THIS IS EDIBLE.  
HAVE YOU FOUND  
ANYTHING,  
BROTHER?

BROTHER?



YOU ARE  
STARVING. DESPERATE.  
YOU FORAGE THROUGH  
BLOODY DEBRIS FOR  
SUSTENANCE.

WHAT ARE  
YOU WILLING TO DO TO  
SURVIVE?



"WILL YOU BETRAY  
ONE YOU LOVE?"

ARGO.

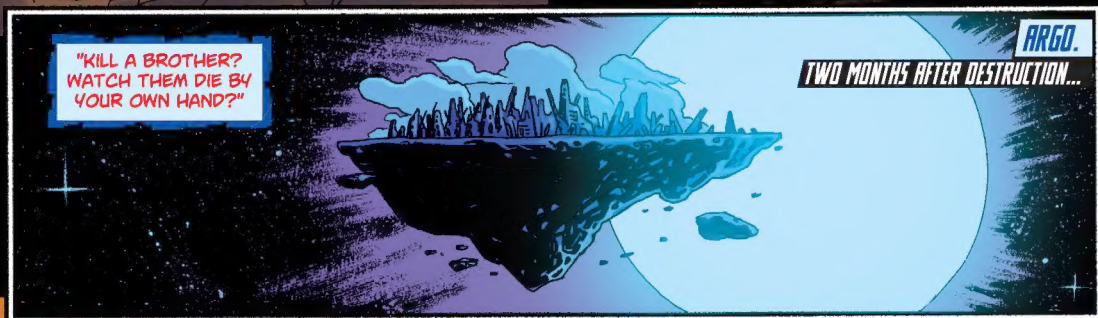
TWO DAYS AFTER  
DESTRUCTION...

STOP,  
ZOR-EL! YOU'RE  
KILLING THE  
CITY!

I CAN  
USE THIS  
TECHNOLOGY TO  
CALL FOR HELP,  
ALLURA.

HAVEN'T  
YOU DONE ENOUGH?  
CAN'T YOU SEE YOU  
DON'T KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE DOING?









...IT'S DONE. NOW  
FEED ME. YOU  
SAID YOU WOULD  
FEED ME.

AND I  
WILL.



EAT OF  
YOUR BROTHER'S  
FLESH AND BE  
SATED.

ZZZZT!



"YOU HESITATE? YOU  
MUST DIVORCE YOURSELF  
FROM SUCH EMOTIONAL  
BONDS. THAT WAY LIES  
ONLY DEATH.

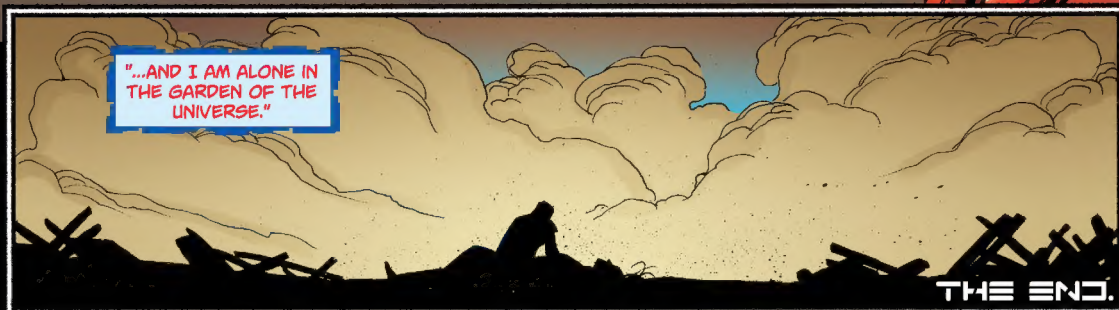
EIGHT MONTHS AFTER DESTRUCTION...

"AND DEATH IS  
FOR THE WEAK."



WEEDS.  
ALL OF THEM  
WEEDS.

I AM  
PERFECTION...



"...AND I AM ALONE IN  
THE GARDEN OF THE  
UNIVERSE."

THE END.





Following the incredible events of Trinity War, the Secret Society is back – and in the pages of the new miniseries **FOREVER EVIL**, the heroes are dead. And in their absence, evil runs amok across the DC Universe!

So get ready, as all the greatest villains of the DCU take center stage, from Arcane to Zod, from The Joker to The Penguin, from Relic to Cheetah – and many more!





